

## NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**



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### ***Workforce Resource Center officially opens in Marion***

Marion, Ind.— In an effort to help dislocated workers in the Madison and Grant County area, state and local officials came together today to open the new Workforce Resource Center in Marion.

The center, which is funded through a \$200,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, will assist area dislocated workers, especially those workers impacted by the closure of Thomson Consumer Electronics.

"This center is here to help our residents through this difficult economic time," said Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold. "Today's opening is another sign of the partnership and the commitment we have seen from the state, the city, the county, the WIB and a wide array of local groups. It's been truly amazing, and it's another sign that the future of our city is very bright."

Located at 800 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., the center will be staffed and operated by the Madison-Grant Workforce Investment Board in association with the local WorkOne office. Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each weekday, the center will offer an array of services, including job and career counseling, skill assessments, educational and job placement opportunities.

"The State responded with a \$200,000 rapid response package almost immediately following the Thomson announcement," said Madison-Grant WIB Chair, Tim Chambers. "The state, city, and county have worked hard and well together to put this center on line in barely a month."

Using the state grant, staff was hired, computers and other equipment were purchased, along with educational and training materials. The 4,500 square foot facility that houses the center, which was donated by the city, was also refurbished. In addition Thomson Consumer Electronics donated some office furniture.

"This was, and will remain a total team effort. I think it's important to know that we are all in this for the long haul – and I hope today's opening symbolizes that," said Al Degner, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "We hope this center helps make these workers' transition and ultimate rebound a little bit easier."

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on the center or its programs, call the Workforce Resource center at 765/ 668-3686 or 1-888-WorkOne.

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